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a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide containing an amino acid sequence which is at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, the polypeptide having phosphoglycerate mutase activity,

b) a polynucleotide that is complementary to the polynucleotide of a), encoding a polypeptide having phosphoglycerate mutase activity.

2. (Twice Amended) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1 wherein said polynucleotide is isolated from a coryneform bacterium.

Please cancel claim 3, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 5-7, 22, and 23 as follows.

5. (Twice Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, the polypeptide having phosphoglycerate mutase activity, and

b) a polynucleotide that is complementary to the polynucleotide of a), the polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having phosphoglycerate mutase activity.

6. (Twice Amended) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of:
the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, or a fragment thereof
wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes for a polypeptide having phosphoglycerate mutase activity.

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7. (Twice Amended) An isolated corynebacterial polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polynucleotide that is identical to SEQ ID NO: 1 encoding a polypeptide containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, the polypeptide having phosphoglycerate mutase activity.

b) a polynucleotide that is complementary to the polynucleotide of a), encoding a polypeptide having phosphoglycerate mutase activity.

22. (Twice Amended) A member of the coryneform group of bacteria transformed by the polynucleotide according to one of claims 1, 5, 6 or 7.

23. (Twice Amended) Bacteria according to claim 22, wherein the bacteria are of the genus *Corynebacterium*.

Please cancel claim 24, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 25 and 26 as follows.

25. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 30 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1 wherein said polynucleotide is a primer in a polymerase chain reaction to produce a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

26. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 30 consecutive nucleotides of the complement to SEQ ID NO: 1 wherein said polynucleotide is a probe in a